Other high-profile cases to be referred within 48 hours

Said's case being sent to MTC today: PM

KARACHI, Jan 1: Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif disclosed on Friday that the cases relating to the murder of Hakim Mohammad Said and Maulana Salahuddin would be referred to the military courts for trial tomorrow.

Several other high-profile murder cases like those of former MNA Zohair Akram Nadeem, KESC chief Malik Shahid Hamid, education board chairman Ismail Memon, Col Bilal, and two sons of a former SP Azizur Rehman, would also be sent to these courts within the next 24 to 48 hours, he said.

Mr Sharif made this statement to newsmen after presiding over a high-level meeting on law and order at the Governor's House here on Friday.

Governor Moinuddin Haider, Interior Minister Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain, Labour and Manpower Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmad, prime minister's principal secretary Saeed Mehdi, Sindh chief secretary Salik Nazir Ahmad, federal and provincial home secretaries, IG, Sindh, the DIG Karachi, the DG rangers, and the chief of the citizen-police liaison committee (CPLC), Jameel Yousuf, also attended the meeting.

Official sources said during the meeting the prime minister expressed satisfaction over the performance of military courts and it was decided that the number of these courts would be increased.

The meeting was informed that of the 49 cases sent to the military courts 12 were being proceeded on, while judgment had been delivered in four cases.

Sources said the provincial administration had been directed to complete the investigations into the murder of Iranian cadets and the Americans on priority basis.

The meeting also decided to review all the appointments made in the provincial government in violation of the prescribed procedure and re-evaluate the qualification of such officials.

Talking to the newsmen Mr Sharif said military courts were performing satisfactorily and the criminals were being given the punishments they deserved.

The prime minister also expressed satisfaction over the law and order situation in Karachi which, he said, had improved. "Government's steps to improve the situation were bearing positive

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results and the performance of police and administration showed mark improvement under the guidance of the governor."

He said the government had succeeded in apprehending notorious criminals and the military courts were trying them. He assured that the government was sincerely working for restoration of peace in Karachi. "The people of Karachi have taken a sigh of relief because the city's economic activities have increased along with the investment reducing the unemployment levels," said the premier.

To a question he said the law and order and the national economy were his government's top priorities for the year 1999. — PPI/NNI